

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT  
TO A BOARD, COMMISSION, OR COMMITTEE

Date: 2 FEB 2007

Applying For: Los Osos Wastewater Project Technical Advisory Committee

Name: MARTHA GOLDIN

Address: [REDACTED]

Home Phone: [REDACTED] Business Phone: —

Fax Phone: — E-mail Address [REDACTED]

Supervisory District: DIST 2 Years resided in County: 11

Present Occupation/Employer: RETIRED

If retired, past Occupation/Employer: LA SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Education: BA, UCLA; LLB, UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

List any school courses, volunteer activities, special skills, training, certificates, licenses, or work experience that you feel relate to your qualifications. If you like, you may attach a separate sheet for this purpose or to state your qualifications.

SEE ATTACHED

Previous service on county or city advisory bodies or an elected office (names/dates).

SEE ATTACHED

Membership in Organizations: SEE ATTACHED

Please explain why you would like to serve (attach a separate sheet if necessary):

SEE ATTACHED

If appointed, are you willing to participate in the majority of meetings each year and, if necessary, in numerous related meetings or subcommittees? ☒ YES ☐ NO

Should you be appointed, are you willing, if necessary for that particular body, to file a statement of disclosure as a public official under the standards set forth by the Fair Political Practice Commission? ☒ YES ☐ NO

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date called/interviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Recommended for appointment? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Appointee prefers not to have address or phone number published? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**List any school courses, volunteer activities, special skills, training, certificates, licenses, or work experience that you feel relate to your qualifications:** My training and experience, both as lawyer and as a judge relate to my qualifications to serve, in the following manner: In both capacities I was required to study, research, analyze, and write on many complex issues. As a lawyer, my practice was not limited to one area of the law. Consequently, I became highly skilled at studying, researching and analyzing information with which I had been totally unfamiliar until I commenced the particular assignment. Much of my work was as an appellate lawyer, where I had to use my research and analytical skills to present persuasive written and oral arguments to an appellate court. Thus, in addition to an ability to gather information, I became very successful at communicating to others what I had learned.

I was in a similar position as a judge: I presided over cases which covered the entire spectrum of legal and factual issues. Each new case presented new facts previously unknown to me, presented by witnesses or through documentary evidence. Each demanded that I be able to apply the law to those newly understood facts, articulate the law clearly and succinctly to a jury so it could properly apply the law to the facts, or sort out and evaluate the facts in order to make a decision myself (a correct one, which would not be overturned by a higher court).

Although I did not come to the bench with a science background, I presided over many medical malpractice cases. I had to hear, absorb and understand medical/technical information in various fields of medicine, from cosmetic surgery to mandibular joint syndrome; from soft tissue injuries to bowel resections. I had to achieve sufficient comprehension in each case to communicate intelligently with attorneys, medical experts and lay persons. I also was called upon to consider and decide construction cases, in particular those involving sewer and drainage pipe issues. In those matters, the fact that my husband had been a construction plumber for 12 years enabled me to "come up to speed" on the technical aspects of the cases quickly and render correct decisions based on evidence not ordinarily understood by a lay person.

I believe that the skills I acquired through my training and experience will be particularly useful as a member of the LO Wastewater Project Technical Advisory Committee. I know how to read and analyze informational material, listen to and absorb evidence and ideas, whether from experts or from the general public. And, I have the skill to synthesize, organize and present a cogent analysis of the information gathered by my colleagues and myself and/or presented to us.

Additionally, I have particular skills in mediation. As a judge, I often had to mediate and settle disputes to save another judge from trying the case. For many years, I was an instructor at the Judges College. I often served as a seminar leader. This meant that I had to lead my "students" to an understanding of the substantive material presented to them by other instructors. We would consider the substantive material in a give and take format and arrive at a consensus as to its meaning and application. This required me to mediate among a group of judges, each an "equal" among "equals" to assist each to see and often accept the validity of others' viewpoints. For the past 10 years, since retiring from the bench, I have served as a mediator in hundreds of cases. Thus, as a member of the Committee, I can bring to the group a unique ability to bring people together, even when their starting positions are widely divergent.

**Previous service on county or city advisory bodies or an elected office:** My position as judge, first on the former LA Municipal Court (1980-1982) and then on the Superior Court of LA County (February 1982 forward), was an elected position. I was a judge from July 1980 until my retirement in May 1996. I was elected in 1982 and re-elected in 1988 and 1994. As a judge, in addition to serving on the Executive Committee of the Los Angeles Superior Court, I served on

the Judges advisory committee to remodel the building which became the Central Civil Courthouse West. In that capacity I had to work with architects and engineers to assist in design which met both the technical demands of the space and existing building structure, and the needs of the judges. Furthermore, we had to meet the requirements of myriad government regulations, ranging from safety to handicap access laws, rules and regulations.

Between 1990 and 1996 I was concerned with the environment in the Civil Courthouse (now the Stanley Mosk courthouse). I was instrumental in obtaining an assessment of the air quality in the courthouse and helping to formulate ways of alleviating the worst of the air problems. Also as a result of my efforts, the judges in the Civil Courthouse were able to prohibit smoking in the courthouse corridors, because we were convinced the County Board of Supervisors that second hand smoke was harmful to the general public using the courthouse. This preceded the general ban on smoking in public buildings.

**Membership in Organizations:** Various lawyers and judges organizations, including State Bar of California (inactive), California Judges Association, National Association of Women Judges, Women Lawyers of LA, Women Lawyers of SLO County, and others. Sierra Club, Audubon, various other concerned with environmental issues. Although retired and currently an inactive lawyer, I have been admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal for the Ninth and Tenth Circuits, all Federal District Courts in California and all California Courts.

**Please explain why you would like to serve:** I want to be part of the solution to the Los Osos wastewater problem. I have owned a residential property in Los Osos for more than eleven years. My house is outside the Prohibition Zone. Therefore, I have been in the fortunate position of that of an outside observer of the "sewer wars." I believe that as a neutral, one who has only an indirect stake in the wastewater project, I can help formulate a win/win solution to a problem which is making a shambles of a lovely community. I want to be part of that solution. I believe that by bringing my analytical and mediation ability to the LO Wastewater Project Technical Advisory Committee I will be part of the solution. Because I do not have an axe to grind, I am in an excellent position to consider all the impacts the project will have on the community. I can see the financial issues very clearly, but without feeling the same kind of pressure as those who will be directly affected. I have had a long standing interest and involvement in environmental issues. I am well prepared to help evaluate environmental issues related to a wastewater project, ranging from air quality to sludge disposal. I want to bring a familiarity with the physical and emotional aspects of life in Los Osos to the development a wastewater treatment system which will be a winner for everyone. The Technical Advisory Committee is the place best available place for me to do this. For that reason, I want to serve on the committee.